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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/523,965	02/27/2006	Neil R Branda	CDM/2353.0011	3983

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EXAMINER

SHITERENGARTS, SAMANTHA L

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1626

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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03/17/2009

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/523,965

Applicant(s)

BRANDA ET AL.

Examiner

Samantha L. Shterengarts

Art Unit

1626

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 February 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SG/US)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-27 are currently pending in the instant application and are subject to a lack of unity requirement.

Election/Restrictions

2. Restriction is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 and 372.

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.499, applicant is required, in reply to this action, to elect a single invention to which the claims must be restricted.

As written, claims 24-25 contain non-statutory subject matter.

Refer to 35 U.S.C. 101:

Inventions Patentable: Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

For the purposes of restriction, the Examiner will interpret claims 24-25 as methods of using the instantly claimed compounds of formulae (I) and (II).

- I. **Group I:** Claims 1-19 and 23, drawn to compounds of the formulae (I) and (II) and methods for preparing the same.
- II. **Group II:** Claims 20-22, drawn to a polymer comprising the compound of formulae (I) and (II).
- III. **Group III:** Claims 24-25, drawn to methods of using compounds of claim 1.
- IV. **Group IV:** Claims 26-27, drawn to a polymer comprising a compound of formulae (III) and (IV).

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.499, applicant is required, in reply to this action, to elect a single invention to which the claims must be restricted.

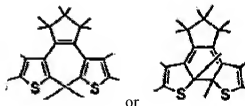
An international application should relate to only one invention or, if there is more than one invention, the inclusion of those inventions in one international application is only permitted if all inventions are so linked as to form a single general inventive concept (PCT Rule 13.1).

With respect to a group of inventions claimed in an international application, unity of invention exists only when there is a technical relationship among the claimed inventions involving one or more of the same or corresponding special technical features.

The claims herein lack unity of invention under PCT rule 13.1 and 13.2 since, under 37 CFR 1.475(a)

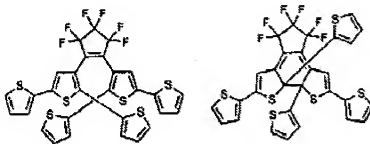
Where a group of inventions is claimed in an application, the requirement of unity of invention shall be fulfilled only when there is a technical relationship among those inventions involving one or more of the same or corresponding special technical features. The expression “special technical features” shall mean those technical features that define a contribution which each of the claimed inventions, considered as a whole, makes over the prior art.

3. **Groups I-IV** lack unity of invention since under 37 CFR 1.475: the technical feature corresponding to the claims is shown below:



This core technical feature is not a special technical feature because it fails to define a

contribution over the prior art as can be seen in Peters et al. (Peters, Andrea. Electrochemically induced ring-closing of photo chromic 1,2-dithienylcyclopentenes. The Royal Society of Chemistry. Chem. Comm. 2003 954-955.), which discloses the same core as in instant Claim 1. Below is a figure of a compound taught by the prior art which teaches the identical non-variable core:



Therefore, claims 1-27 are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept and there is a lack of unity of invention because they lack a special technical feature as the technical feature present fails to define a contribution over the prior art. The core technical feature that is being claimed is taught by the prior art. Accordingly, unity of invention is considered to be lacking and restriction of the invention in accordance with the rules of unity of invention is considered to be proper.

Furthermore, in regards to Groups I-IV, even if unity of invention under 37 CFR 1.475(a) is not considered lacking, which it is as evidenced above, unity is lacking under 37 CFR 1.475(b). Under 37 CFR 1.475(b): A national stage application containing claims to different categories of invention will be considered to have unity of invention if the claims are drawn only to one of the following combinations:

- (1) A product and a process specially adapted for the manufacture of said product; or

(2) A product and a process of use of said product; or

(3) A product, a process specially adapted for the manufacture of said product, and a use of said product; or

(4) A process and an apparatus or means specifically designed for carrying out the said process; or

(5) A product, a process specially adapted for the manufacture of said product, and an apparatus or means specifically designed for carrying out the said process.

And according to 37 CFR 1.475(c): if an application contains claims to more or less than one of the combinations of categories of invention set forth in paragraph 37 CFR 1.475(b), unity of invention might not be present.

Therefore, since the claims are drawn to compounds, which do not make a contribution over the prior art, as well as *various* methods of using the compounds of formulae I and II, as in claims 24 thru 25, a method for preparing compounds of formulae I and II, as well as two distinct polymers, as in Groups II and IV, and according to 37 CFR 1.475(e): the determination whether a group of inventions is so linked as to form a single general inventive concept shall be made without regard to whether the inventions are claimed in separate claims or as alternatives within a single claims.

Therefore, since the claims do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 and lack the same or corresponding special technical feature, the claims lack unity of invention and should be limited to only a product or a method of use.

Election of Species

4. As an additional requirement, with the election of any one of **Groups I-IV**, an election of

species of a particular species is also required. In order for this election to be considered fully responsive to this requirement the election **must include:**

Group I or III:

- a) the name and structure of the instantly claimed compound of formulae I and II
- b) the location of the species (a) within the claims or (b) within the specification,
- c) the claims that read on the elected species,
- d) and a definition of the exact substitutions,

e.g. R₁ is Hydrogen, X is oxygen, etc...

- e) one specific use for compounds of formulae I and II

Group II or IV:

- a) the name and structure of the instantly claimed polymer
- b) the location of the species (a) within the claims or (b) within the specification,
- c) the claims that read on the elected species,
- d) and a definition of the exact substitutions,

e.g. R₁ is Hydrogen, X is oxygen, etc...

Applicant is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable.

Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include (i) an election of a species to be examined even though the requirement may be traversed (37 CFR 1.143) **and (ii) identification of the claims encompassing the elected species**, including any claims subsequently added. An argument that a claim is allowable or that all claims are

generic is considered nonresponsive unless accompanied by an election.

The election of the species may be made with or without traverse. To preserve a right to petition, the election must be made with traverse. If the reply does not distinctly and specifically point out supposed errors in the election of species requirement, the election shall be treated as an election without traverse. Traversal must be presented at the time of election in order to be considered timely. Failure to timely traverse the requirement will result in the loss of right to petition under 37 CFR 1.144. If claims are added after the election, applicant must indicate which of these claims are readable on the elected species.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Samantha Shterengarts whose telephone number is (571)270-5316. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Thursday 9-6pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr. Joseph K. McKane can be reached on 571-272-0699. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Samantha L. Shtrengarts/
Examiner, Art Unit 1626

/Kamal A Saeed/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1626